

## Message Text

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71

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 SCCT-02 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 SAJ-01 AF-10 EUR-25

AID-20 DRC-01 /184 W

----- 104014

R 311501Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2609

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USINT DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IS, SY

SUBJECT: ISRAELI REACTION TO TERMS OF SYRIAN-ISRAELI

DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT

REF: TEL AVIV 2915

1. SUMMARY. IN CONTEXT OF PUBLICATION OF TEXT OF SYRIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT AND GOI OPPOSITION STATEMENTS IN KNESSET DEBATE, ISRAELI PUBLIC AND PRESS REACTION REMAINS STRONGLY FAVORABLE ALTHOUGH SOMEWHAT LESS EUPHORIC THAN INITIALLY.

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MAIN THEME STRUCK BY COMMENTATORS IS THAT SIGNIFICANCE OF

DISENGAGEMENT LIES IN OPENING UP PROSPECT OF FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS WITH ARAB STATES AND IN STRENGTHENING OF US-ISRAELI RELATIONS. MILITARY IMPLICATIONS OF DISENGAGEMENT ARE PERCEIVED AS MORE PROBLEMATIC, DEPENDING TO A GREAT EXTENT ON WHETHER SYRIA INTENDS TO HONOR AGREEMENT AND ON WHETHER TERRORIST OPERATIONS ORIGINATING FROM SYRIA CONTINUE. END SUMMARY.

2. ISRAELI PUBLIC AND PRESS CONTINUE TO RECEIVE SYRIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT FAVORABLY. DOMINANT MAN-IN-THE-STREET REACTION IS THAT AT MINIMUM, AGREEMENT MAY PROVIDE ISRAEL WITH BADLY-NEEDED PERIOD OF MILITARY QUIET AND FOR RETURN OF POWS. SKEPTICISM ABOUT SYRIAN INTENTIONS IS MEASURED AGAINST AWARENESS THAT AGREEMENT SETS STAGE FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS WITH EGYPT AND ALSO WITH JORDAN.

3. GOLAN (HAARETA) STRIKES CHARACTERISTIC NOTE OF PRESS COMMENTARY IN STATING THAT AGREEMENT'S IMPORTANCE IS NOT IN MILITARY ASPECT BUT POLITICAL FACT THAT SYRIA HAS SIGNED AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL "PRECEDENT WHICH CANNOT BE UNDONE." NEGOTIATIONS WITH EGYPT AND PERHAPS JORDAN ARE ON AGENDA ALTHOUGH NOT IMMEDIATELY ISRAEL NEEDS TIME AND EGYPT IS NOT INTERESTED IN GENEVA AND ROLE IT IMPLIES FOR SOVIETS. INCREASED US AID FOR ARAB STATES IS SOMETHING WHICH ISRAEL MUST GET USED TO AND, IN LONG, RUN ISRAEL WILL HAVE NOTHING TO COMPLAIN ABOUT.

4. POLES (HAARETZ) ALSO CALLS ATTENTION TO NEXT STAGE OF NEGOTIATIONS, SAYING GOI MUST BE PREPARED TO FACE PROBLEMS OF WEST BANK AND GAZA STRIP NOW THAT GOLAN DISENGAGEMENT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED. "WE WOULD DO WELL NOT TO PUT THE ISSUE OFF BUT TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE."

5. RUBINSTEIN (DAVAR) COMMENTS THAT TALKS OF "BEGINNING OF A NEW ERA" IS UNJUSTIFIED BUT THAT AGREEMENT HAS IMPROVED ISRAEL'S SITUATION BY ASSURING IT OF PERIOD OF TRANQUILITY. DISENGAGEMENT HOWEVER DOES NOT SIGNIFY CHANGE IN ARAB IDEOLOGY.

6. SHORI (AL HAMISHMAR) NOTES THAT ANY ASSESSMENT OF HOW MUCH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ISRAEL CONCEDED SHOULD ALSO MEASURE HOW FAR SYRIA BACKED DOWN FROM ITS ORIGINAL DEMANDS. SYRIA HAS FAILED TO OBTAIN GOI COMMITMENT TO TOTAL WITHDRAWAL FROM GOLAN HEIGHTS OR EVEN WITHDRAWAL DEEP WITHIN HEIGHTS. MAIN CONSIDERATION FOR ISRAEL IS PROSPECT OF PROGRESS WITH EGYPT AND JORDAN, AND DIASPORA WHICH AGREEMENT PREVENTS. AGREEMENT INCREASED US-ISRAELI UNDERSTANDING AND ENABLES US TO WIDEN ITS INFLUENCE IN MIDDLE EAST AND OFFSET SOVIET INFLUENCE. FINALLY,

STRONG US INFLUENCE CAN ONLY HAVE BENEFICIAL EFFECT ON GENEVA CONFERENCE.

7. EDELSTEIN (HATZOFE), AFTER NOTING PROBLEMATIC ASPECTS IF SYRIA DECIDES ON RESUMPTION OF FIGHTING OR ALLOWS CONTINUED TERRORIST INCURSIONS, NOTES THAT IMPORTANCE OF AGREEMENT IS THAT IT MAY REPLACE DYNAMICS OF WAR WITH DYNAMICS OF PEACE. IT BRINGS RESUMPTION OF GENEVA CONFERENCE AND AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT AND JORDAN NEARER.

8. GUINNEY (YEDYOT AHARONOT) NOTES THAT AGREEMENT HAS IMPROVED ISRAEL'S INTERNATIONAL POSITION. IN ADDITION TO PROSPECT OF STRENGTHENING US DIPLOMATIC, MILITARY, AND ECONOMIC SUPPORT, EUROPE MAY ALSO PROVE MORE SYMPATHETIC -- PARTICULARLY GIVEN RECENT CHANGES IN EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS. AGREEMENT REFLECTS A REVOLUTION IN DAMASCUS' THINKING. FOR YEARS SYRIA HAD REFUSED TO ACCEPT RESOLUTION 242 AND PREACHED POPULAR WAR AS ONLY SOLUTION. " THE PRESENT AGREEMENT RECOGNIZES ISRAEL'S EXISTENCE AT LEAST BY IMPLICATION."

9. DAVAR COMMENTS EDITORIALY ON AGREEMENT: " IT AROUSES NO ENTHUSIASM AND ONE MUST TAKE A SOBER VIEW OF THE POSSIBILITY OF IT AS BEING VIOLATED, BUT OVER AND BEYOND PROVIDING MUCH-NEEDED BREATHING SPACE, IT HOLDS OUT, HOWEVER SLENDER, A CHANCE OF INITIATING THE 'DYNAMICS OF RELAXATION' OF TENSIONS, AND IT GIVES ISRAEL THE VERY NECESSARY FEELING THAT, WHATEVER MAY COME, NO CHANCE OF PREVENTING THE OUTBREAK OF A WAR HAS BEEN MISSED."

10. AL HAMISHMAR NOTES EDITORIALY THAT FAVORABLE KNESSET MAJORITY, LARGER THAN THAT OF FULING COALITION, IS CLEARLY MORE REPRESENTATIVE OF ISRAELI MAJORITY THAN VOICES OF PROTESTERS. LIKUD'S STAND UNDERSCORES SELF-SERVING NATURE OF ITS DEMAND FOR NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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